

# CYPRESS STATION VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES

AN INITIATIVE OF  Harris County  
**Public Health**  
Building a Healthy Community

## A New Approach to Violence Prevention

Harris County Public Health's (HCPH) new Violence Prevention Services (**VPS**) use a public health approach to disrupt violence and provide an alternative to law enforcement for non-violent 911 calls. Cypress Station is a pilot community for two new initiatives, the Holistic Assistance Response Team or **HART** and the Community Violence Interruption Program or **CVIP**. These initiatives address the root causes of violence and put additional social services, medical, mental, and behavioral health resources in the community.



## Why HART?

Not all 911 calls require law enforcement. Many incidents are non-violent and can be handled effectively by teams of trained medical and behavioral health specialists who assist individuals and connect them to appropriate resources.

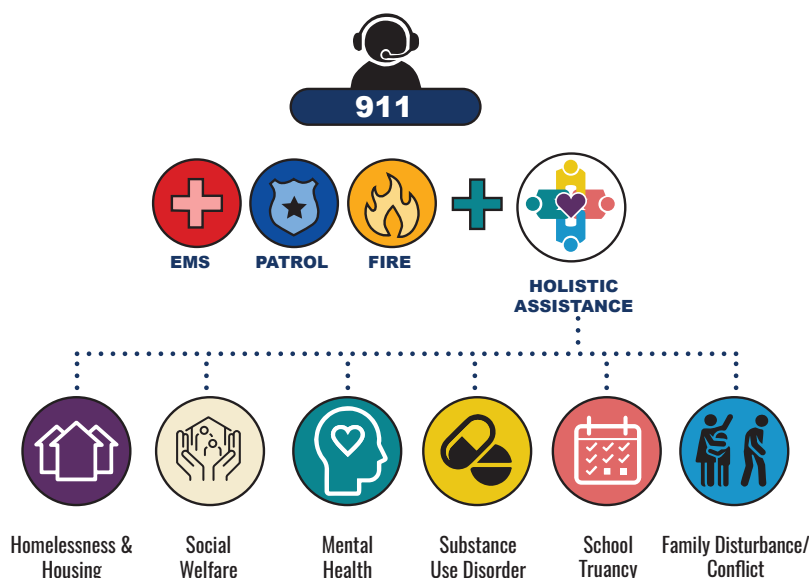
## How It Works

When you call 911, the operator asks for your location and type of emergency - law enforcement, fire, or medical - then transfers you to the right local agency.

Now, when 911 calls are transferred to dispatchers in Cypress Station, they can send HART, a trained team of responders to non-violent incidents. HART responders are in identifiable uniforms and vehicles to distinguish them from law enforcement.

## Benefits of HART

- Frees up law enforcement to focus on violent crime
- Provides resources and assistance to people in crisis and helps prevent re-occurrences
- VPS is managed and funded by HCPH and does not require law enforcement funding



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## Community Violence Interruption Program (CVIP) Zip Code 77090

The **CVIP** focuses on youth and young adults since they are often the perpetrators and victims of violence. To break the cycles of violence, outreach specialists, trained in mediation and conflict resolution, work in the community with at-risk youth and in the hospital with survivors of violence. They also provide enrollment assistance to youth and families for benefits like food and housing assistance, medical and mental health care, which can help stabilize people's lives and reduce violence.

### Community Outreach Specialists

- Represent the community and have had similar life experiences to the people they are working with
- Seek to prevent violence, interrupt existing conflicts, and prevent retaliation
- Identify youth and young adults who are involved in violence and encourage program enrollment
- Serve as mentors and connect at-risk people with resources and social services to help them change their lives

### Hospital Outreach Specialists

- Support survivors of violence in the immediate aftermath of an injury requiring hospitalization to provide intensive support and resources
- Work with Cypress Station survivors of violence who are patients at Ben Taub Hospital, a Harris County Level 1 Trauma Center
- Assist with recovery after leaving the hospital to aid in avoiding future violent incidents and injuries

### Benefits of CVIP

- Similar programs in other U.S cities have helped reduce violence, reduce re-injury rates for survivors of violence, and made communities safer

**Visit our webpage for program updates:**

[www.bit.ly/vpsupdates](http://www.bit.ly/vpsupdates)

**Email or call us with questions or comments:**

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